

In the Claims:

1-24. Cancelled

25. (new) A spinning wheel bonus indicator comprising:

a wheel shaped indicator having an axis of rotation and which is provided with a plurality of segments radiating from said axis of rotation, wherein:

said segments are associated with at least two different indicia; and

said wheel shaped indicator adapted for a rotating mode and a stationary mode about said axis of rotation;

a pointer associated with said wheel shaped indicator to point to one of said plurality of segments when said wheel shaped indicator is in said stationary mode; and

a controller receptive to a monetary input and operative to control said rotating mode and said stationary mode of said wheel shaped indicator such that said pointer is aligned with a predetermined segment of said wheel shaped indicator.

26. (new) The spinning wheel bonus indicator as recited in Claim 25, wherein said at least two different indicia comprise two different numeric values displayed within two different segments of said wheel shaped indicator.

27. (new) The spinning wheel bonus indicator as recited in Claim 25, wherein said at least two different indicia comprise two different symbolic values displayed within two different segments of said wheel shaped indicator.

28. (new) The spinning wheel bonus indicator as recited in Claim 25, wherein said wheel shaped indicator is in a form of a mechanical wheel on a game unit.

29. (new) The spinning wheel bonus indicator as recited in Claim 28, wherein said mechanical wheel is driven by a motor.

30. (new) The spinning wheel bonus indicator as recited in Claim 29, wherein said motor is a stepper motor.

31. (new) The spinning wheel bonus indicator as recited in Claim 29, wherein said motor is a servo motor.

32. (new) The spinning wheel indicator system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said predetermined segment is randomly chosen.

33. (new) The spinning wheel indicator system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said controller is coupled to a position detection mechanism for controlling said rotating mode and said stationary mode.

34. (new) An indicator wheel system comprising:

a wheel shaped indicator having an axis of rotation and defining a major surface, said wheel shaped indicator being provided with a plurality of segments associated with said major surface and radiating from said axis of rotation, wherein said plurality of segments are associated with at least two different indicia;

a stepper motor for selectively providing rotory motion to said wheel shaped indicator to provide a rotating mode and a stationary mode with respect to said axis of rotation;

an optical position sensor associated with said wheel shaped indicator to determine at least one position of said wheel shaped indicator; and

a pointer associated with said wheel shaped indicator to point to one of said plurality of segments when said wheel shaped indicator is in said stationary mode.


35. (new) An indicator wheel system as recited in claim 34 wherein said wheel shaped indicator is a circular disk, and wherein said major surface is a first major surface, said circular disk further having a second major surface substantially parallel to said first major surface.
36. (new) An indicator wheel system as recited in claim 34 wherein said plurality of segments are provided on said first major surface.
37. (new) An indicator wheel system as recited in claim 34 further comprising a stepper motor controller coupled to said stepper motor.
38. (new) An indicator wheel system as recited in claim 34 further comprising control circuitry coupled, directly or indirectly, to said stepper motor and said optical position sensor.
39. (new) An indicator wheel system as recited in claim 38 wherein said control circuitry includes a microprocessor.
40. (new) An indicator wheel system as recited in claim 39 wherein an output of said optical position sensor can provide said at least one position of said wheel shaped indicator to said control circuitry to be used with respect to at least one control of said stepper motor by said control system.

CONCLUSION

If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 838-4311.

Respectfully submitted,
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